

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1 and 3 are amended and claim 13 is canceled. Support can be found in the specification as filed, for example, in original claims 13-15. No issue of new matter arises.

Rejection under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16-20, 49 and 50 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as allegedly being obvious over Gertler in view of Reinhard and Evangelista. Claims 14 and 15 were not included in this rejection.

Claims 14 and 15 ultimately depend from each of claims 1 and 3 through claim 13. Claim 13 is cancelled, its subject matter being incorporated into each of claims 1 and 3. Subject matter of claims 14 and 15 is incorporated into each of claims 1 and 3 as members of a Markush group; dependency is appropriately corrected. The rejection is thus obviated by amendment. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all pending rejections. Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and request prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable that might put the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Fees

No fees not otherwise provided for are believed to be necessitated by the instant response. However, should this be in error, authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account no. 18-1982 for any underpayment, or to credit any overpayments.

Respectfully submitted,



George S. Jones, Reg. No. 38,508
Attorney for Applicants

sanofi-aventis US Inc
Patent Department
Route #202-206 / P.O. Box 6800
Bridgewater, NJ 08807-0800
Telephone (908) 231-3776
Telefax (908) 231-2626
sanofi-aventis Docket No. DEAV2000/A051 US NP